This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A compound of the formula

$$U\text{-}V\text{-}A\text{-}(Alk)_j\text{-}(C(O)\text{-}NH)_h\text{-}(Alk)_g\text{-}B$$

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein g, h and j are each independently 0 or 1; provided when h is 0, then g is 0;

each Alk is independently a alkyl radical;

U represents guanidino, -(G-alkyl)$_k$-NH-R_1, -(G-alkyl)$_k$-NH-C(Q)-R_1, -(G-alkyl)$_k$-C(Q)-N(R)-R_1, -(G-alkyl)$_k$-NH-C(Q)-N(R)-R_1, -(G-alkyl)$_k$-NH-C(Q)-O-R_1 or -(G-alkyl)$_k$-O-C(Q)-N(R)-R_1 radical; or U represents a hydroxyalkyl-G- radical which is optionally substituted by a cycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl or heterocyclyl, wherein the cycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl and heterocyclyl radicals are optionally substituted by 1-3 radicals of R_2;

wherein k is 0 or 1;

G represents a bond, O, S or NH;

Q represents O, S, NH, N-CN or N-alkyl;

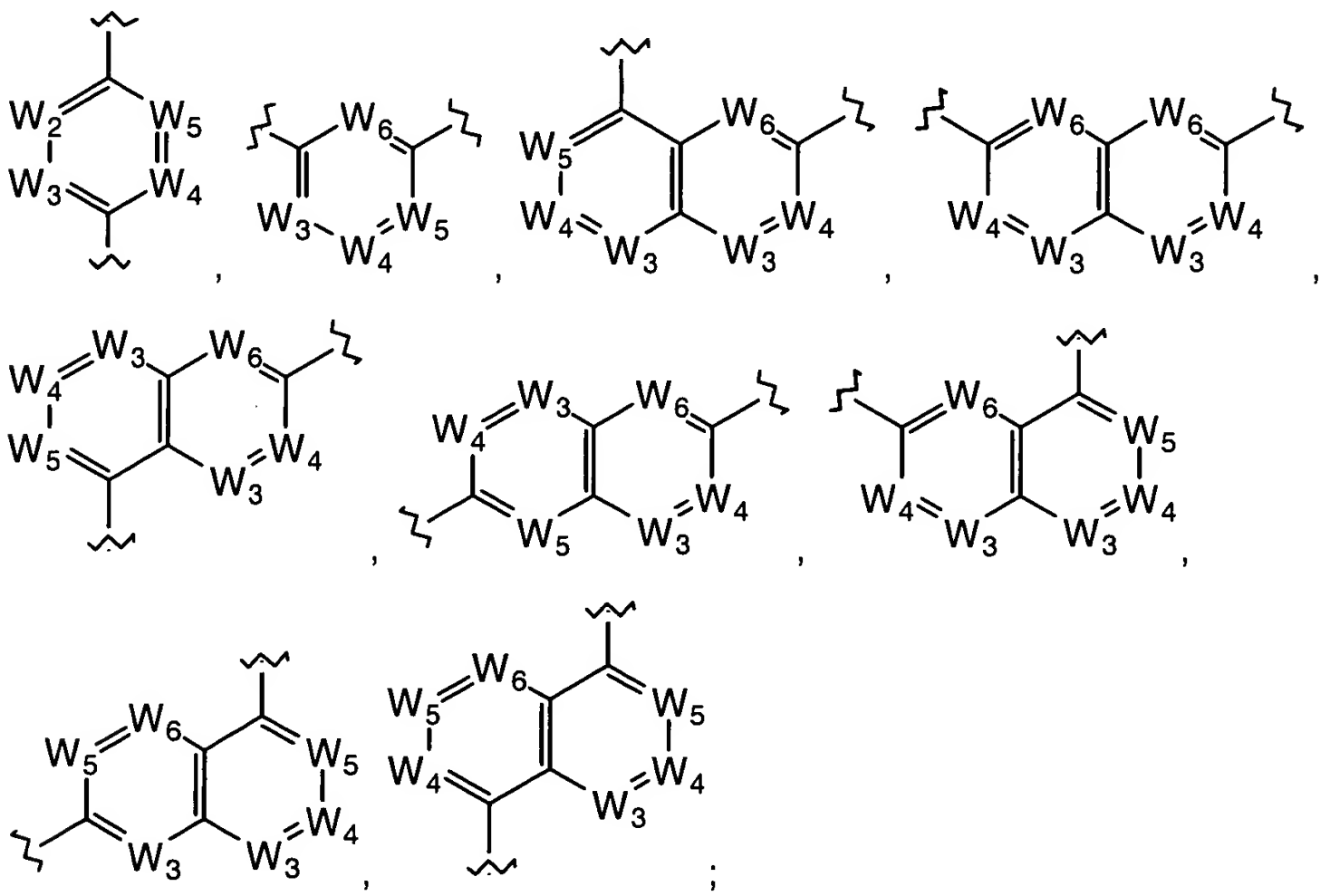
R is a radical of hydrogen or alkyl;

R_1 is a radical of alkyl, haloalkyl, $R_{21}R_{22}$N-alkyl, R_{21}O-alkyl, R_{21}S-alkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkyl-alkyl, aryl, aryl-alkyl, heteroaryl, heteroaryl-alkyl, heterocyclyl or heterocyclyl-alkyl, wherein the cycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl and heterocyclyl radicals are optionally substituted by 1-3 radicals of R_2;

wherein R_{21} and R_{22} are each independently a radical of hydrogen, alkyl, haloalkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkyl-alkyl, aryl, aryl-alkyl, heteroaryl, heteroaryl-alkyl, heterocyclyl or heterocyclyl-alkyl, wherein the cycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl and heterocyclyl radicals are optionally substituted by 1-3 radicals of R_2;

each R_2 is independently a halo, alkyl, alkoxy, alkylthio, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, hydroxy, carboxy, cyano, azido, amidino, guanidino, nitro, amino, alkylamino or dialkylamino radical or two adjacent R_2 radicals on an aryl or heteroaryl radical represent a methylenedioxy, ethylenedioxy or propylenedioxy radical;

V represents a radical of formula



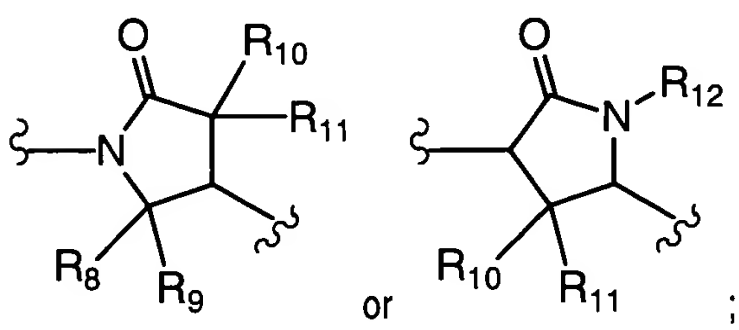
wherein each W_2, W_3, W_4 and W_5 is C-R_4; provided the total number of cycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, heterocyclyl, carboxy, -C(O)-O-R_{19}, -C(O)-R_{19}, -C(O)-NH-R_{19}, -C(O)-N(R_{19})$_2$ and -R_{19} radicals in W_2, W_3, W_4 and W_5 is 0-2;

each W_6 is C-H; and

each R_4 is independently a hydrogen, halo, alkyl, alkoxy, alkylthio, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, hydroxy, cyano, carboxy, -C(O)-O-R_{19}, -C(O)-R_{19}, -C(O)-NH-R_{19}, -C(O)-N(R_{19})$_2$, cycloalkyl, cycloalkyl-alkyl, aryl, aryl-alkyl, heteroaryl, heteroaryl-alkyl, heterocyclyl or heterocyclyl-alkyl radical, wherein the cycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl and heterocyclyl radicals are optionally substituted by 1-3 radicals of R_2; or two adjacent R_4 radicals taken together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached represent a fused-phenyl or fused-heteroaryl of 5-6 ring members, wherein the phenyl and heteroaryl radicals are optionally substituted by 1-3 radicals of R_2;

R_5, R_6 and R_7 are each independently a hydrogen, halo, alkyl, alkoxy, alkylthio, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, hydroxy or cyano radical; or R_5 and R_6 or R_6 and R_7 taken together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached represent a fused-phenyl or fused-heteroaryl of 6 ring members, wherein the phenyl and heteroaryl radicals are optionally substituted by 1-3 radicals of R_2; or R_3 and R_6 taken together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached represent a fused-heteroaryl of 6 ring members optionally substituted by 1-3 radicals of R_2;

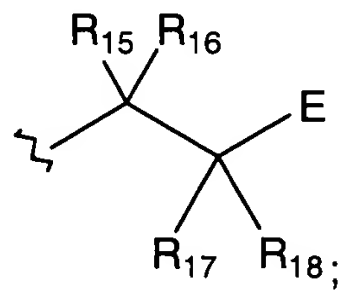
A represents a radical of formula



;

R_8, R_9, R_{10}, R_{11} and R_{12} are each independently a hydrogen or alkyl radical; or $-CR_8R_9-$ represents a -C(O)-;

B represents a radical of formula



;

wherein (a) R_{15} is a hydrogen or alkyl radical; and R_{17} is (1) an aryl, heteroaryl, -NH-C(O)-R_{19}, -C(O)-NH-R_{19}, -NH-C(O)-NH-R_{19}, -O-C(O)-NH-R_{19}, -NH-C(O)-O-R_{19}, -$S(O)_2$-R_{19}, -NH-$S(O)_2$-R_{19}, -$S(O)_2$-NH-R_{19} or -NH-$S(O)_2$-NH-R_{19} radical, or (2) an alkyl radical substituted by a radical of aryl, heteroaryl, -NH-C(O)-R_{19}, -C(O)-NH-R_{19}, -NH-C(O)-NH-R_{19}, -O-C(O)-NH-R_{19}, -NH-C(O)-O-R_{19}, -$S(O)_2$-R_{19}, -NH-$S(O)_2$-R_{19}, -$S(O)_2$-NH-R_{19} or -NH-$S(O)_2$-NH-R_{19}; wherein the aryl and heteroaryl radicals are optionally substituted by 1-3 radicals of R_2; or

(b) R_{17} is a hydrogen or alkyl radical; and R_{15} is (1) an aryl, heteroaryl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclyl, -NH-C(O)-R_{19}, -C(O)-NH-R_{19}, -NH-C(O)-NH-R_{19}, -O-C(O)-NH-R_{19}, -NH-C(O)-O-R_{19}, -$S(O)_2$-R_{19}, -NH-$S(O)_2$-R_{19}, -$S(O)_2$-NH-R_{19} or -NH-$S(O)_2$-NH-R_{19} radical, or (2) an alkyl radical substituted by a radical of aryl, heteroaryl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclyl, -NH-C(O)-R_{19}, -C(O)-NH-R_{19}, -NH-C(O)-NH-R_{19}, -O-C(O)-NH-R_{19}, -NH-C(O)-O-R_{19}, -$S(O)_2$-R_{19}, -NH-$S(O)_2$-R_{19}, -$S(O)_2$-NH-R_{19} or -NH-$S(O)_2$-NH-R_{19} radical; wherein the cycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl and heterocyclyl radicals are optionally substituted by 1-3 radicals of R_2;

provided that when a nitrogen atom is attached to the carbon atom to which R_{15} is attached, then R_{15} is (1) an aryl, heteroaryl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclyl or -C(O)-NH-R_{19} radical, or (2) an alkyl radical substituted by a radical of aryl, heteroaryl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclyl, -NH-C(O)-R_{19}, -C(O)-NH-R_{19}, -NH-C(O)-NH-R_{19}, -O-C(O)-NH-R_{19}, -NH-C(O)-O-R_{19}, -$S(O)_2$-R_{19}, -NH-$S(O)_2$-R_{19}, -$S(O)_2$-NH-R_{19} or -NH-$S(O)_2$-NH-R_{19};

wherein R_{19} is a alkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkyl-alkyl, aryl, aryl-alkyl, heteroaryl, heteroaryl-alkyl, heterocyclyl or heterocyclyl-alkyl, wherein the cycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl and heterocyclyl radicals are optionally substituted by 1-3 radicals of R_2;

R_{16} and R_{18} are each independently a hydrogen or alkyl radical; and

E is a radical of carboxy, amido, tetrazolyl, -C(O)-O-R_{20}, -C(O)-NH-R_{20}, -C(O)-NH-S(O)-R_{20}, -C(O)-NH-$S(O)_2$-R_{20} or -C(O)-NH-C(O)-R_{20};

wherein R_{20} is an alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl or heterocyclyl radical or an alkyl radical substituted by 1-3 radicals of halo, hydroxy, carboxy, amino, cycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl or heterocyclyl, wherein the cycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl and heterocyclyl radicals are optionally substituted by 1-3 radicals of R_2; and

provided that when U represents ~~amidino,~~ guanidino, -C(Q)-NH-R_1 or -NH-C(Q)-NH-R_1 radical, wherein Q represents NH, N-CN or N-alkyl, then at least one of g, h or j is 1.

2. (Previously presented) The compound of Claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein

each Alk is independently a C_1-C_{12} alkyl radical;

U represents guanidino, -(G-(C_1-C_8 alkyl))$_k$-NH-R_1, -(G-(C_1-C_8 alkyl))$_k$-NH-C(Q)-R_1, -(G-(C_1-C_8 alkyl))$_k$-C(Q)-N(R)-R_1, -(G-(C_1-C_8 alkyl))$_k$-NH-C(Q)-N(R)-R_1, -(G-(C_1-C_8 alkyl))$_k$-NH-C(Q)-O-R_1 or -(G-(C_1-C_8 alkyl))$_k$-O-C(Q)-N(R)-R_1 radical; or U represents a hydroxy(C_1-C_{12} alkyl)-G- radical which is optionally substituted by a C_3-C_8 cycloalkyl,

aryl, heteroaryl of 5-10 ring members or heterocyclyl of 5-8 ring members, wherein the cycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl and heterocyclyl radicals are optionally substituted by 1-3 radicals of R_2;

Q represents O, S, NH, N-CN or N-(C_1-C_8 alkyl);

R is a radical of hydrogen or C_1-C_8 alkyl;

R_1 is a radical of C_1-C_8 alkyl, halo(C_1-C_8 alkyl) of 1-7 halo radicals, $R_{21}R_{22}$N-(C_1-C_8 alkyl), R_{21}O-(C_1-C_8 alkyl), R_{21}S-(C_1-C_8 alkyl), C_3-C_8 cycloalkyl, C_3-C_8 cycloalkyl(C_1-C_8 alkyl), aryl, aryl(C_1-C_8 alkyl), heteroaryl of 5-10 ring members, heteroaryl(C_1-C_8 alkyl) of 5-10 ring members, heterocyclyl of 5-8 ring members or heterocyclyl(C_1-C_8 alkyl) of 5-8 ring members, wherein the cycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl and heterocyclyl radicals are optionally substituted by 1-3 radicals of R_2;

wherein R_{21} and R_{22} are each independently a radical of hydrogen, C_1-C_8 alkyl, halo(C_1-C_8 alkyl) of 1-7 halo radicals, C_3-C_8 cycloalkyl, C_3-C_8 cycloalkyl(C_1-C_8 alkyl), aryl, aryl(C_1-C_8 alkyl), heteroaryl of 5-10 ring members, heteroaryl(C_1-C_8 alkyl) of 5-10 ring members, heterocyclyl of 5-8 ring members or heterocyclyl(C_1-C_8 alkyl) of 5-8 ring members, wherein the cycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl and heterocyclyl radicals are optionally substituted by 1-3 radicals of R_2;

each R_2 is independently a halo, C_1-C_6 alkyl, C_1-C_6 alkoxy, C_1-C_6 alkylthio, halo(C_1-C_4 alkyl) of 1-5 halo radicals, halo(C_1-C_4 alkoxy) of 1-5 halo radicals, hydroxy, carboxy, cyano, azido, amidino, guanidino, nitro, amino, C_1-C_8 alkylamino or di(C_1-C_8 alkyl)amino radical or two adjacent R_2 radicals on an aryl or heteroaryl radical represent a methylenedioxy, ethylenedioxy or propylenedioxy radical;

each R_3 is independently a hydrogen or C_1-C_6 alkyl radical;

each R_4 is independently a hydrogen, halo, C_1-C_6 alkyl, C_1-C_6 alkoxy, C_1-C_6 alkylthio, halo(C_1-C_4 alkyl) of 1-5 halo radicals, halo(C_1-C_4 alkoxy) of 1-5 halo radicals, hydroxy, cyano, carboxy, -C(O)-O-R_{19}, -C(O)-R_{19}, -C(O)-NH-R_{19}, -C(O)-N(R_{19})$_2$, C_3-C_6 cycloalkyl, C_3-C_6 cycloalkyl(C_1-C_4 alkyl), aryl, aryl(C_1-C_4 alkyl), heteroaryl of 5-10 ring members, heteroaryl(C_1-C_4 alkyl) of 5-10 ring members, heterocyclyl of 5-8 ring members or heterocyclyl(C_1-C_4 alkyl) of 5-8 ring members radical, wherein the cycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl and heterocyclyl radicals are optionally substituted by 1-3 radicals of R_2; or two adjacent R_4 radicals taken together with the carbon atoms to

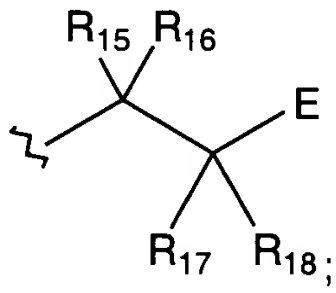
which they are attached represent a fused-phenyl or fused-heteroaryl of 5-6 ring members, wherein the phenyl and heteroaryl radicals are optionally substituted by 1-3 radicals of R_2;

R_5, R_6 and R_7 are each independently a hydrogen, halo, C_1-C_6 alkyl, C_1-C_6 alkoxy, C_1-C_6 alkylthio, halo(C_1-C_4 alkyl) of 1-5 halo radicals, halo(C_1-C_4 alkoxy) of 1-5 halo radicals, hydroxy or cyano radical; or R_5 and R_6 or R_6 and R_7 taken together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached represent a fused-phenyl or fused-heteroaryl of 6 ring members, wherein the phenyl and heteroaryl radicals are optionally substituted by 1-3 radicals of R_2; or R_3 and R_6 taken together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached represent a fused-heteroaryl of 6 ring members optionally substituted by 1-3 radicals of R_2;

X_2 is C-H, C-(C_1-C_4 alkyl), a C_3-C_8 spirocycloalkyl or spiroheterocyclyl of 5-8 ring members radical; wherein the spirocycloalkyl and spiroheterocyclyl radicals are optionally substituted by an oxo or thiooxo radical and 1-2 radicals of C_1-C_6 alkyl, halo(C_1-C_4 alkyl) of 1-5 halo radicals, hydroxy, C_1-C_6 alkoxy or halo(C_1-C_4 alkoxy) of 1-5 halo radicals;

R_8, R_9, R_{10}, R_{11} and R_{12} are each independently a hydrogen or C_1-C_6 alkyl radical; or -CR_8R_9- represents a -C(O)-;

B represents a radical of formula



wherein (a) R_{15} is a hydrogen or C_1-C_6 alkyl radical; and R_{17} is (1) an aryl, heteroaryl of 5-10 ring members, -NH-C(O)-R_{19}, -C(O)-NH-R_{19}, -NH-C(O)-NH-R_{19}, -O-C(O)-NH-R_{19}, -NH-C(O)-O-R_{19}, -$S(O)_2$-R_{19}, -NH-$S(O)_2$-R_{19}, -$S(O)_2$-NH-R_{19} or -NH-$S(O)_2$-NH-R_{19} radical, or (2) an C_1-C_6 alkyl radical substituted by a radical of aryl, heteroaryl of 5-10 ring members, -NH-C(O)-R_{19}, -C(O)-NH-R_{19}, -NH-C(O)-NH-R_{19}, -O-C(O)-NH-R_{19}, -NH-C(O)-O-R_{19}, -$S(O)_2$-R_{19}, -NH-$S(O)_2$-R_{19}, -$S(O)_2$-NH-R_{19} or -NH-$S(O)_2$-NH-R_{19}; wherein the aryl and heteroaryl radicals are optionally substituted by 1-3 radicals of R_2; or

(b) R_{17} is a hydrogen or C_1-C_6 alkyl radical; and R_{15} is (1) an aryl, heteroaryl of 5-10 ring members, C_3-C_8 cycloalkyl, heterocyclyl of 5-8 ring members, -NH-C(O)-R_{19}, -C(O)-NH-R_{19}, -NH-C(O)-NH-R_{19}, -O-C(O)-NH-R_{19},

-NH-C(O)-O-R_{19}, -$S(O)_2$-R_{19}, -NH-$S(O)_2$-R_{19}, -$S(O)_2$-NH-R_{19} or -NH-$S(O)_2$-NH-R_{19} radical, or (2) an C_1-C_4 alkyl radical substituted by a radical of aryl, heteroaryl of 5-10 ring members, C_3-C_8 cycloalkyl, heterocyclyl of 5-8 ring members, -NH-C(O)-R_{19}, -C(O)-NH-R_{19}, -NH-C(O)-NH-R_{19}, -O-C(O)-NH-R_{19}, -NH-C(O)-O-R_{19}, -$S(O)_2$-R_{19}, -NH-$S(O)_2$-R_{19}, -$S(O)_2$-NH-R_{19} or -NH-$S(O)_2$-NH-R_{19} radical; wherein the cycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl and heterocyclyl radicals are optionally substituted by 1-3 radicals of R_2;

provided that when a nitrogen atom is attached to the carbon atom to which R_{15} is attached, then R_{15} is (1) an aryl, heteroaryl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclyl or -C(O)-NH-R_{19} radical, or (2) an alkyl radical substituted by a radical of aryl, heteroaryl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclyl, -NH-C(O)-R_{19}, -C(O)-NH-R_{19}, -NH-C(O)-NH-R_{19}, -O-C(O)-NH-R_{19}, -NH-C(O)-O-R_{19}, -$S(O)_2$-R_{19}, -NH-$S(O)_2$-R_{19}, -$S(O)_2$-NH-R_{19} or -NH-$S(O)_2$-NH-R_{19};

wherein R_{19} is a C_1-C_6 alkyl, C_3-C_8 cycloalkyl, C_3-C_8 cycloalkyl(C_1-C_6 alkyl), aryl, aryl(C_1-C_6 alkyl), heteroaryl of 5-10 ring members, heteroaryl(C_1-C_6 alkyl) of 5-10 ring members, heterocyclyl of 5-8 ring members or heterocyclyl(C_1-C_6 alkyl) of 5-8 ring members, wherein the cycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl and heterocyclyl radicals are optionally substituted by 1-3 radicals of R_2;

R_{16} and R_{18} are each independently a hydrogen or C_1-C_6 alkyl radical; and

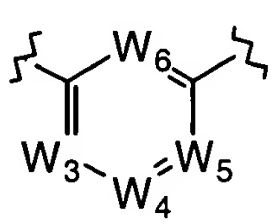
R_{20} is a C_1-C_6 alkyl, C_3-C_8 cycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl of 5-10 ring members or heterocyclyl of 5-8 ring members radical or a C_1-C_6 alkyl radical substituted by 1-3 radicals of halo, hydroxy, carboxy, amino, C_3-C_8 cycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl of 5-10 ring members or heterocyclyl of 5-8 ring members, wherein the cycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl and heterocyclyl radicals are optionally substituted by 1-3 radicals of R_2.

Claim 3 (Canceled).

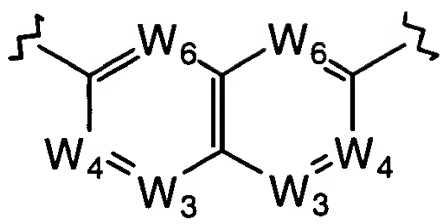
4. (Previously presented) The compound of Claim 3 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein

each Alk is independently a C_1-C_6 alkyl radical;

V represents a radical of formula



or



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R_8, R_9, R_{10}, R_{11} and R_{12} are each independently a hydrogen or methyl radical; or $-CR_8R_9-$ represents a -C(O)-.

5. (Previously presented) The compound of Claim 4 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein

each Alk is independently a C_1-C_4 alkyl radical;

U represents guanidino, $-(G-(C_1-C_8\ alkyl))_k-NH-R_1$, $-(G-(C_1-C_8\ alkyl))_k-NH-C(Q)-R_1$, $-(G-(C_1-C_8\ alkyl))_k-C(Q)-N(R)-R_1$, $-(G-(C_1-C_8\ alkyl))_k-NH-C(Q)-N(R)-R_1$ or $-(G-(C_1-C_8\ alkyl))_k-NH-C(Q)-O-R_1$ radical;

G represents a bond, O or NH;

Q represents O, S, NH, N-CN or N-(C_1-C_4 alkyl);

R is a radical of hydrogen or C_1-C_4 alkyl;

R_1 is a radical of C_1-C_6 alkyl, halo(C_1-C_6 alkyl) of 1-5 halo radicals, $R_{21}R_{22}N-(C_1-C_6\ alkyl)$, $R_{21}O-(C_1-C_6\ alkyl)$, C_3-C_8 cycloalkyl, C_3-C_8 cycloalkyl(C_1-C_6 alkyl), aryl, aryl(C_1-C_6 alkyl), heteroaryl of 5-10 ring members, heteroaryl(C_1-C_6 alkyl) of 5-10 ring members, heterocyclyl of 5-8 ring members or heterocyclyl(C_1-C_6 alkyl) of 5-8 ring members, wherein the cycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl and heterocyclyl radicals are optionally substituted by 1-3 radicals of R_2;

R_{21} and R_{22} are each independently a radical of hydrogen, C_1-C_8 alkyl, aryl, aryl(C_1-C_4 alkyl), heteroaryl of 5-10 ring members or heteroaryl(C_1-C_4 alkyl) of 5-10 ring members, wherein the aryl and heteroaryl radicals are optionally substituted by 1-3 radicals of R_2;

each R_2 is independently a halo, C_1-C_4 alkyl, C_1-C_4 alkoxy, C_1-C_4 alkylthio, halo(C_1-C_2 alkyl) of 1-5 halo radicals, halo(C_1-C_2 alkoxy) of 1-5 halo radicals, hydroxy, carboxy, cyano, azido, amidino, guanidino, nitro, amino, C_1-C_4 alkylamino or di(C_1-C_4 alkyl)amino radical or two adjacent R_2 radicals on an aryl or heteroaryl radical represent a methylenedioxy, ethylenedioxy or propylenedioxy radical;

each R_4 is independently a hydrogen, halo, C_1-C_4 alkyl, C_1-C_4 alkoxy, C_1-C_4 alkylthio, halo(C_1-C_2 alkyl) of 1-5 halo radicals, halo(C_1-C_2 alkoxy) of 1-5 halo radicals, hydroxy, cyano, carboxy, -C(O)-O-R_{19}, -C(O)-R_{19}, -C(O)-NH-R_{19}, -C(O)-N(R_{19})$_2$, C_3-C_6 cycloalkyl, C_3-C_6 cycloalkyl(C_1-C_4 alkyl), aryl, aryl(C_1-C_4 alkyl), heteroaryl of 5-10 ring members, heteroaryl(C_1-C_4 alkyl) of 5-10 ring members, heterocyclyl of 5-8 ring members or heterocyclyl(C_1-C_4 alkyl) of 5-8 ring members radical, wherein the cycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl and heterocyclyl radicals are optionally substituted by 1-3 radicals of R_2; and

R_{20} is a C_1-C_4 alkyl, aryl or heteroaryl of 5-10 ring members or a C_1-C_4 alkyl radical substituted by 1-3 radicals of halo, hydroxy, carboxy, amino, aryl, heteroaryl of 5-10 ring members or heterocyclyl of 5-8 ring members, wherein the aryl, heteroaryl and heterocyclyl radicals are optionally substituted by 1-3 radicals of R_2.

6. (Previously presented) The compound of Claim 5 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein

U represents guanidino, -(G-(C_1-C_8 alkyl))$_k$-NH-R_1, -NH-C(Q)-R_1, -(G-(C_1-C_8 alkyl))$_k$-C(Q)-N(R)-R_1, -NH-C(Q)-N(R)-R_1 or -NH-C(Q)-O-R_1 radical;

Q represents O or NH;

R is a radical of hydrogen or C_1-C_2 alkyl;

R_1 is a radical of C_1-C_6 alkyl, halo(C_1-C_6 alkyl) of 1-5 halo radicals, $R_{21}R_{22}$N-(C_1-C_4 alkyl), R_{21}O-(C_1-C_4 alkyl), C_3-C_8 cycloalkyl, C_3-C_8 cycloalkyl(C_1-C_4 alkyl), aryl, aryl(C_1-C_4 alkyl), heteroaryl of 5-10 ring members, heteroaryl(C_1-C_4 alkyl) of 5-10 ring members, heterocyclyl of 5-8 ring members or heterocyclyl(C_1-C_4 alkyl) of 5-8 ring members, wherein the cycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl and heterocyclyl radicals are optionally substituted by 1-3 radicals of R_2;

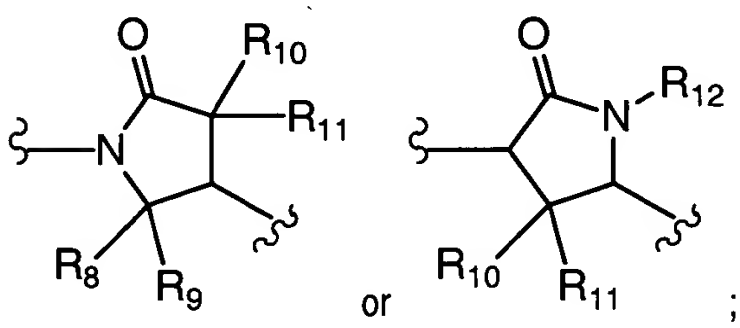
R_{21} and R_{22} are each independently a radical of hydrogen, C_1-C_6 alkyl, aryl or heteroaryl of 5-10 ring members, wherein the aryl and heteroaryl radicals are optionally substituted by 1-3 radicals of R_2;

each R_2 is independently a halo, C_1-C_2 alkyl, C_1-C_2 alkoxy, C_1-C_2 alkylthio, CF_3-, CF_3O-, hydroxy, carboxy, cyano, azido, amidino, guanidino, nitro, amino, C_1-C_2 alkylamino or di(C_1-C_2 alkyl)amino radical or two adjacent R_2 radicals on an aryl or heteroaryl radical represent a methylenedioxy, ethylenedioxy or propylenedioxy radical;

each W_2, W_3, W_4 and W_5 are independently C-R_4;

each R_4 is independently a hydrogen, halo, C_1-C_4 alkyl, C_1-C_4 alkoxy, C_1-C_4 alkylthio, halo(C_1-C_2 alkyl) of 1-5 halo radicals, halo(C_1-C_2 alkoxy) of 1-5 halo radicals, hydroxy or cyano radical;

A represents a radical of formula



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(a) R_{15} is a hydrogen or C_1-C_2 alkyl radical; and R_{17} is -NH-C(O)-R_{19}, -NH-C(O)-NH-R_{19}, -NH-C(O)-O-R_{19}, -NH-$S(O)_2$-R_{19} or -NH-$S(O)_2$-NH-R_{19} radical; or (b) R_{17} is a hydrogen or C_1-C_2 alkyl radical; and R_{15} is (1) an aryl, heteroaryl of 5-10 ring members, C_3-C_8 cycloalkyl or heterocyclyl of 5-8 ring members radical, or (2) an C_1-C_2 alkyl radical substituted by a radical of aryl, heteroaryl of 5-10 ring members, C_3-C_8 cycloalkyl or heterocyclyl of 5-8 ring members radical; wherein the cycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl and heterocyclyl radicals are optionally substituted by 1-3 radicals of R_2;

R_{19} is a C_1-C_4 alkyl, aryl, aryl(C_1-C_4 alkyl), heteroaryl of 5-10 ring members or heteroaryl(C_1-C_4 alkyl) of 5-10 ring members, wherein the aryl and heteroaryl radicals are optionally substituted by 1-3 radicals of R_2;

R_{16} and R_{18} are each independently a hydrogen or C_1-C_4 alkyl radical;

E is a radical of carboxy, amido, tetrazolyl or -C(O)-O-R_{20}; and

R_{20} is a C_1-C_2 alkyl, aryl or heteroaryl of 5-10 ring members or a C_1-C_2 alkyl radical substituted by 1-3 radicals of halo, hydroxy, carboxy, aryl or heteroaryl of 5-10 ring members, wherein the aryl and heteroaryl radicals are optionally substituted by 1-3 radicals of R_2.

7. (Original) The compound of Claim 6 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein

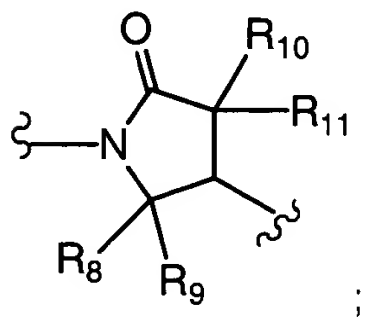
Alk is independently a C_1-C_2 alkyl radical;

G represents a bond or NH;

R_{21} and R_{22} are each independently a radical of hydrogen, C_1-C_6 alkyl or aryl, wherein the aryl and heteroaryl radicals are optionally substituted by 1-3 radicals of R_2;

each R_4 is independently a hydrogen, halo, C_1-C_2 alkyl, C_1-C_2 alkoxy, C_1-C_2 alkylthio, CF_3-, CF_3O-, hydroxy or cyano radical;

A represents a radical of formula



;

(a) R_{15} is a hydrogen or C_1-C_2 alkyl radical; and R_{17} is -NH-C(O)-O-R_{19} or -NH-$S(O)_2$-R_{19} radical; or (b) R_{17} is a hydrogen or C_1-C_2 alkyl radical; and R_{15} is (1) an aryl or heteroaryl of 5-10 ring members, or (2) an C_1-C_2 alkyl radical substituted by a radical of aryl or heteroaryl of 5-10 ring members; wherein the aryl and heteroaryl radicals are optionally substituted by 1-3 radicals of R_2;

R_{19} is a C_1-C_4 alkyl, aryl or aryl(C_1-C_4 alkyl), wherein the aryl radicals are optionally substituted by 1-3 radicals of R_2;

R_{16} and R_{18} are each independently a hydrogen or C_1-C_2 alkyl radical;

E is a radical of carboxy or -C(O)-O-R_{20}; and

R_{20} is a C_1-C_2 alkyl, aryl or aryl(C_1-C_2 alkyl) radical, wherein the aryl radicals are optionally substituted by 1-3 radicals of R_2.

8. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to any of Claims 1 to 7 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Claims 9 - 18 (Canceled).

19. (Previously added) A method for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis comprising administering an effective amount of a compound according to Claim 1.